United Nations E/AC.51/2016/L.4/Add.16

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
27 June 2016

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fifty-sixth session
31 May-24 June 2016
Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-sixth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Aleg **Yermalovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Programme 17
Economic Development in Europe

1. At its 10th meeting, on 6 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 17, Economic Development in Europe, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 17)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Appreciation and support were expressed for the programme. ECE was commended for its activities aimed at facilitating greater economic integration and cooperation among its member States through policy dialogue and technical cooperation, the development of regulations and norms as well as the exchange and application of best practices. The increased interaction between ECE and other international organizations and regional commissions was highlighted as a means to promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

16-10918 (E) 290616

Please recycle

4. It was noted that changes were made in the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 compared with the framework for the period 2016-2017. The programme was commended for its efforts to promote the development of sustainable Euro-Asian transport links, especially through the regulation of the transport framework and the identification of road and rail routes for priority development and cooperation.

5. Clarification was sought on why migration appeared only under subprogramme 3, Statistics, while no reference to migration nor migrants was mentioned under subprogramme 4, Economic cooperation and integration.

6. The view was expressed that trade barriers constituted an impediment for the further economic integration of the ECE region. With regard to subprogramme 6, Trade, clarification was sought regarding paragraph 17.29 (b) under the strategy of the subprogramme, notably the normative work to develop standards and recommendations in the areas of trade facilitation, agricultural quality standards and regulatory cooperation. The view was expressed that, unlike the World Trade Organization, regional commissions were not mandated to develop standards and recommendations in the area of international trade facilitation and agricultural quality standards.

7. It was recalled that consultations were held in December 2015 and January 2016 between the five regional commissions and the United Nations Development Group. In that connection, clarification was sought on the results of the consultations and on how interregional cooperation among the five commissions could be strengthened in the future and resources could be leveraged.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that, in order to achieve its objectives of assisting member States in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, the programme is realigned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in line with established procedures.**

9. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 17, Economic Development in Europe, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 17.5

At the end of the second sentence, add "regional" after "relevant".

Subprogramme 6

Paragraph 17.29 (b)

After "Normative work to", insert "support member States to".